

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SCCT-01 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 R

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P 172140Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141842

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEVEN),  
(HUNTER, CARRIE)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: RED CROSS INVOLVEMENT

1. GEORGE ELSEY, PRESIDENT AMERICAN RED CROSS, INFORMED  
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS JUNE 16 THAT CHAIRMAN OF DUTCH RED  
CROSS JONKHEER KRAIJENHOFF HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY VICE  
PRESIDENT TANZANIAN RED CROSS J. BANTU KASELLA DURING RED  
CROSS MEETING IN YUGOSLAVIA LAST WEEK TO ASK IF DUTCH AND  
AMERICAN RED CROSS COULD RAISE MONEY TO SATISFY KID-  
NAPPERS. (KRAIJENHOFF, BEING OLD FRIEND OF EMILIE  
BERGMAN'S FAMILY, HAS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE MATTER.)

2. KRAIJENHOFF IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT IN ELSEY, AND THEY  
RESPONDED TO BANTU'S QUESTION IN GENERALITIES, STATING  
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THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS HAD SO FAR NOT BEEN IN-  
VOLVED. WHEN BANTU WAS ASKED IF HE HAD CONTACT WITH  
KIDNAPPERS, HE REPLIED THAT CONTACTS COULD BE MADE, BUT  
GAVE NO SPECIFICS.

3. NEXT DAY, JUNE 11, IN MEETING OF ABOVE THREE PLUS PRESIDENT ZAIRE RED CROSS B.B. BOMPESE, BANTU HAD COOLED OFF. HE WAS NOW SAYING IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR TANZANIAN RED CROSS TO TAKE ANY OPEN, OVERT ACTION OR EVEN TO SHOW PUBLIC INTEREST. HE WAS NOT SURE HIS PRESIDENT (NYERERE) WOULD WANT HIM BE OPENLY INVOLVED. IN SUBSEQUENT FOUR-WAY

DISCUSSION, GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THAT IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO INVOLVE RED CROSS PUBLICLY OR EVEN SEMI-PUBLICLY, IN ANY EFFORTS TO PAY RANSOM, SINCE IT WOULD ESTABLISH DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. AS INDIVIDUALS, EACH WOULD WANT USE OPENINGS, CONTACTS AVAILABLE. BOMPESE SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT CONTACT COULD BE MADE, BUT HAD NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS.

4. KRAIJENHOFF RETURNED TO NETHERLANDS JUNE 12 AND SPOKE WITH HIS FOREIGN OFFICE. HE WAS CALLED BY BANTU, WHO WAS STILL IN YUGOSLAVIA AND TWO MEN AGREED TO REMAIN IN TOUCH. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS FOREIGN OFFICE, DUTCH AMBASSADOR VAN DEN BERG IN DAR IS TO SEE BANTU AS SOON AS LATTER RETURNS THERE, PRESUMABLY SOMETIME THIS WEEK AND IS TO COMMUNICATE RESULTS OF MEETING TO OUR AMBASSADOR.

5. DEPOFFS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO ELSEY FOR HIS CONVEYING ABOVE INFORMATION. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY BY ELSEY DEPOFFS SAID THEY BELIEVED BANTU WAS ACTING ON HIS OWN IN CONTACTING KRAIJENHOFF AND NOT AT REQUEST OF NYERERE OR TANGOV. HOWEVER, DEPT WOULD CONVEY INFO TO EMBASSY DAR TO SEE WHETHER EMBASSY AWARE OF ANY ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF TANZANIAN RED CROSS IN KIDNAP CASE. DEPOFFS ALSO AGREED WITH ELSEY THAT FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST THERE DID NOT SEEM USEFUL ROLE WHICH AMERICAN RED CROSS COULD PLAY. KISSINGER

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